



State of Washington

## **DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207  
Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

### **DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)**

**Name of Proposal:** #11-092 COWLITZ WA PETERMAN HILL ROAD ABANDONMENT

**Description of Proposal:**

Peterman Hill has over 75 miles of road within ~6,800 acres. Under the management plan for the Cowlitz Wildlife Area road densities will be reduced to approximately 1.5 miles of “open” road per square mile of land. This amounts to 22 miles of roads abandoned. Much of the roads are already controlled by gates that permit vehicular access to the public on a seasonal basis and walk in traffic throughout the year. The roads proposed for abandonment have been identified as not necessary for operational purposes and their abandonment will have no real negative benefits to public access while providing positive benefits to wildlife. The work proposed to “officially” abandon these roads will consist of controlling sediment delivery by installing water bars as needed, pulling culverts and providing ditch relief prior to a connection to fish bearing waters. Additionally, access by vehicular traffic will be prevented and the plant community will be allowed to naturally vegetate the area.

These wildlife area lands are owned by Tacoma Power and managed by WDFW. They are exempt from the Discovery Pass requirement. Also, these road closures are small spurs and landings that do not provide any significant additional access. In fact, most if not all of these roads already are so brushed in that the public can’t access them now. These closures are for forest management purposes compatible with our responsibility to provide sustainable recreational activities that are compatible with fish, wildlife and their habitats. They also meet our DNR RMAP responsibilities and Tacoma Power’s FERC requirements.

**Proponent/Applicant:**

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – Cowlitz Wildlife Area  
Mark Grabski or Richard Vanderlip  
PO Box 758, Morton WA 98356  
Phone: 360.496.6223

**Location of Proposal:** Washington, Lewis County; Parts of Sections 7,8,10,13,14,15,16,22,23, Township 12 North, Range 4 East WM and Sections 19 and 20, Township 12 North, Range 5 East WM.

**Lead Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law<sup>1</sup> does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.<sup>2</sup> We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days**

from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. This means we must receive your comments by **December 1, 2011**.

**Method of Comment:**

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to [SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov)
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

**Responsible Official:** Bob Zeigler

**Position/Title:** SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

**Address:** 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/> Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.<sup>1</sup>

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Bob Zeigler at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call him at (360) 902-2578.

**DATE OF ISSUE:** November 16, 2011

**SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 11 -.092 dns